

HEADQUARTERS
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
CHINA THEATER
APO 627

16 September 1945

SUBJECT: Award of the Bronze Star Medal.

TO : Commanding General, U.S. Forces, China Theater, APO 879.

1. Award Recommended: BRONZE STAR MEDAL.
2. General Statement of Service rendered.

CAPTAIN LUCIEN E. CONEIN is cited for meritorious service during the period 1 August 1945 to the cessation of hostilities on 15 August 1945, when he was a member of the Secret Intelligence Branch of the Office of Strategic Services in the China Theater. During this period he commanded a Secret Intelligence commando team composed of American, French and Chinese personnel with the mission of gathering intelligence and harassing the enemy in the vicinity of the cities of Lang-Son and Hong-Xom, French Indo-China. Captain Conein was responsible for the selecting, training and organizing of this team as well as the planning of the attack upon Japanese headquarters and garrisons at Lang-Son and Hong-Xom, French Indo-China, and the successful execution of the mission. Captain Conein in planning the mission made a reconnaissance of the route to be taken by his team through territory heavily covered by Japanese patrols and garrisons, seven days prior to the operation. The intelligence which he gathered on this reconnaissance was of inestimable value to the success of the mission and in the minimizing of casualties to his forces. When he was threatened by attack from Japanese forces and advised to abandon this area by Chinese and French military commanders, he chose to remain and defend his position against advancing columns of Japanese coming from the North and West. On 9 July 1945, Captain Conein led his forces in a successful attack upon Lang-Son and the headquarters of the 22nd Japanese Division. After a twenty-three hour forced march through enemy held territory, he successfully attacked the Japanese garrison at Hong-Xom and then safely retreated into Chinese territory. These counter-attacks upon the enemy disorganized their forces and stopped their advance toward the threatened portion of China. His actions were exemplary and inspired all that worked with him, not only his own men, but the Chinese and French commanders who did not believe that the counter-attack could be held. His achievements reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States.

3. Lucien E. Conein, Captain, Infantry, O 1 322 709, AUS.

Date of Birth: 29 November 1919.

4. At the time of rendition of service on which this award is based, Captain Conein was a Captain in the Army of the United States, serving with the Office of Strategic Services, China Theater.

5. No other award has been received by this individual since 7 December 1941.

CITATION

LUCIAN M. CONEIN, 01 322 769, Captain, Infantry, Army of the United States, is awarded the BRONZE STAR MEDAL for meritorious service during the period 1 August 1945 to the cessation of hostilities on 15 August 1945, when he commanded a commando team composed of American, French and Chinese personnel with the mission of gathering intelligence and harassing the enemy in French Indo-China. Captain Conein was responsible for the selecting, training and organizing of this team as well as the planning of the attacks upon Japanese headquarters and garrisons of French Indo-China, and the successful execution of the mission. Captain Conein in planning the mission made, seven days prior to the operation, a reconnaissance of the route to be taken by his team through territory heavily covered by Japanese patrols and garrisons. The intelligence which he gathered on this reconnaissance was of inestimable value to the success of the mission and in the minimizing of casualties in his forces. When he was threatened by attack from Japanese forces and advised to abandon this area by local military commanders, he chose to remain and defend his position against advancing columns of Japanese coming from the North and West. On 9 July 1945, Captain Conein led his forces in a successful attack against Japanese garrisons and headquarters of the 22nd Japanese Division. After a twenty-three hour forced march through enemy held territory, he successfully attacked the other Japanese garrison and then safely retreated into Chinese territory. These counter-attacks upon the enemy discouraged and disorganized their forces and stopped their advance toward the threatened portion of China. His actions were exemplary and inspired all that served with him, not only his own men, but the local commanders who did not believe that the counter-attack could be successfully accomplished. His achievements reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States.